

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Appl. No.: 09/450,384
Amendment dated October 21, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 22, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action mailed April 22, 2005 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive to that office action. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, and 8-16 remain in this application. Claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 11, and 14 are currently amended.

Claims 1-6, 8-16 and rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pferd et al. (US 3,112,147) in view of Deluca (US4,176,257) or Fribley, Jr. (US 3,610,810).

Pferd, Deluca, and Fribley do not establish a proper prima facie case of obviousness of claim 1 because Pferd, Deluca, and Fribley, either alone or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest a telephone wire distribution that includes: input-wire-pair-labeling regions for uniquely labeling input-wire pairs relative to one another; and output-wire-pair-destination-labeling regions for labeling respective places to which corresponding output-wire pairs are run, such that, for each output-wire pair that is coupled to an input-wire pair, the input-wire pair is uniquely labeled relative to other input-wire pairs along the longitudinal axis of the pair of punch down terminal strips to which the input-wire pair is coupled and an output-wire-destination-labeling region is located along an output-wire-pair-destination-labeling-region axis that is substantially in line with the termination area at which the output-wire pair is coupled to the pair of punch down terminal strips such that the input-wire pair label and the output wire-pair-destination-labeling region are located along respective perpendicular axes that intersect substantially at the termination area at which the output-wire pair is coupled to the pair of punch down terminal strips.

Claim 1 is directed to a telephone wire distribution center comprising: a front substantially planar surface; a plurality of pairs of punch down terminal strips attached to the front surface, wherein each punch down terminal strip includes a first termination area and a plurality of additional termination areas, wherein each termination area of a particular punch down terminal strip is electrically coupled in series by the particular punch down terminal strip to every other termination area of the same punch down terminal strip; a plurality of input-wire-pair-labeling regions on the front surface for uniquely labeling a corresponding plurality of

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Appl. No.: 09/450,384
Amendment dated October 21, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 22, 2005

input-wire pairs relative to one another, wherein the input-wire-pair-labeling regions respective locations are substantially in line with a corresponding plurality of respective longitudinal axes of the plurality of pairs of the punch down terminal strips thereby indicating that respective pairs of the punch down terminal strips correspond to respective input-wire pairs; and a plurality of output-wire-pair-destination-labeling regions for labeling respective places to which corresponding output-wire pairs are run, the plurality of output-wire-pair-destination-labeling regions being located on the front surface along respective output-wire-pair-destination-labeling-region axes that are: (1) substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axes of the plurality of pairs of punch down terminal strips and (2) substantially in line with respective termination areas of the plurality of additional termination areas of the plurality of pairs of punch down terminal strips such that, for each output-wire pair that is coupled to an input-wire pair, the input-wire pair is uniquely labeled relative to other input-wire pairs along the longitudinal axis of the pair of punch down terminal strips to which the input-wire pair is coupled and an output-wire-destination-labeling region is located along an output-wire-pair-destination-labeling-region axis that is substantially in line with the termination area at which the output-wire pair is coupled to the pair of punch down terminal strips such that the input-wire pair label and the output-wire-pair-destination-labeling region are located along respective perpendicular axes that intersect substantially at the termination area at which the the output-wire pair is coupled to the pair of punch down terminal strips.

Pferd discloses an insulation crushing solid wire clip terminal with no labeling of input-wire pairs and no output-wire-pair destination labeling regions.

Deluca discloses a telephone connector block that permits the convenience of blocks normally connected at parallel sidewalls to be interconnected at a forwardly facing surface when side interconnection is impractical or undesirable. The connector block includes a first element providing guiding means for jumper connections leading to the forwardly facing surface including the necessary fanning openings, and a second element forming pin terminal means on the forwardly facing surface.

In Figure 3, Deluca labels tip and ring circuits with a pair of T's and a pair of R's across the top of the pin comb marking members 100. (Column 2, lines 34-35, and column 3, lines 26-

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Appl. No.: 09/450,384
Amendment dated October 21, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 22, 2005

35). Referring to Figure 14 of Deluca, the forward surface of the pin comb marking members includes numbers that identify subscriber pairs. (Column 3, lines 26-35).

Fribley discloses a terminal box with splitters for distributing television coaxial cable. The bottom wall of the terminal box has indicia marked cable ports 34 arranged in rows for containing and identifying service cables to each apartment. The cable ports are arranged in spaced rows identified by letters A, B, C, as shown in Figure 4, to indicate cable service drop connections from the terminal box to service drop connections from the terminal box to service outlets for each apartment unit to be serviced from the terminal box. (Column 2, lines 20-31). A main power input cable SCP and a ground wire SCG are shown entering the input cable ports 34A and being connected to the lower end (input) of the amplifier module 66. A main signal input cable SCI extends through the cable guide slot 54 into connection with the input terminal 66A of the amplifier 66. (Column 3, lines 29-35). All of the remaining cables are designated as customer service drops SCD, extending from various selected output terminals 58B-6 B through the cable guide slots 38-54 and then to various apartments or rooms of subscribing customers in the building in which the terminal box 20 is located. (Column 3, lines 48-53). The cable guide slot 38 is code keyed to the cable ports 34 with line A (SCDA) being the bottom service cable therein and line B (SCDB) being the next highest service cable therein stacked on line A (SCDA). (Column 3, lines 58-61). An inventory label IL is symmetrically positioned on the reference plate RP, such that a plurality of ledger spaces are available in vertical rows 70, the latter being of like number to the cable guide slots 36-54 in registry therewith. (Column 3, lines 71-75).

As such, Pferd, Deluca, and Fribley, either alone or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest a telephone wire distribution that includes: input-wire-pair-labeling regions for uniquely labeling input-wire pairs relative to one another; and output-wire-pair-destination-labeling regions for labeling respective places to which corresponding output-wire pairs are run, such that, for each output-wire pair that is coupled to an input-wire pair, the input-wire pair is uniquely labeled relative to other input-wire pairs along the longitudinal axis of the pair of punch down terminal strips to which the input-wire pair is coupled and an output-wire-destination-labeling region is located along an output-wire-pair-destination-labeling-region axis that is

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Appl. No.: 09/450,384
Amendment dated October 21, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 22, 2005

substantially in line with the termination area at which the output-wire pair is coupled to the pair of punch down terminal strips such that the input-wire pair label and the output-wire-pair-destination-labeling region are located along respective perpendicular axes that intersect substantially at the termination area at which the output-wire pair is coupled to the pair of punch down terminal strips.

The invention of claim 1 provides significant functional advantages over the teachings of the prior art references of record. As discussed on pages 1 and 2 of this application, the Category 5 telephone industry standard requires four paired input lines per house and a separate dedicated wire pair for each wired telephone jack in the house. These requirements of Category 5 present an organizational challenge not previously addressed by conventional telephone wire distribution centers. As described in the portion of the application reproduced below, the telephone distribution center of claim 1 facilitates organizing, labeling, identification, and the ability to readily switch a particular output wire pair from a particular input pair to any of the other input wire pairs more efficiently than is possible with conventional telephone wire distribution centers:

While input wire pairs are generally organized horizontally, in other words, along the direction indicated by double-headed arrow 144, with first through fourth input wire pairs being electrically coupled to terminal strip pairs 134-1/134-2, 134-3/134-4, 134-5/134-6, and 134-7/134-8, output wire pairs are generally organized vertically, in other words, in the direction of double-headed arrow 146. For instance, the first paired input wire, also referred to as line 1 is coupled in series to each insulation displacing terminal connector 118-1 through 118-13. Accordingly, label area 148-1 provides space for a label such as master bedroom, or kitchen, or the like. A paired output wire (not shown) could be connected to terminal connector 118-2 and the corresponding paired terminal connector of row 104 to connect the paired output wire leading to the bedroom to input line 1. To change the input line to which that paired output wire is coupled, the output wire can simply be removed from the terminal connectors 118-2 and the corresponding paired terminal connector of row 104 and connected to a different pair of terminal connectors, for instance, a pair of connectors from rows 106 and 108 for line 2, a pair of connectors from rows 110 and 112 for line 3, or rows 114 and 116 for line 4.

In a similar manner, additional paired output lines can be labeled using other labeling areas below labeling area 148-1 for paired output wires leading to other rooms or locations in a house. A paired output wire leading to a particular location can then subsequently be readily identified, uncoupled from a first input

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Appln. No.: 09/450,384
Amendment dated October 21, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 22, 2005

line, and coupled to a different input line much more efficiently than is possible with prior art telephone wire distribution centers.

(Application, page 5, line 9, through page 6, line 6).

For at least the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that Pferd, Deluca, and Fribley, either alone or in combination, do not establish prima facie obviousness of claim 1. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Further, applicant respectfully submits that, Pferd, Deluca, and Fribley, either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations of claims 2-6 and 8-16 for at least reasons similar to those discussed above in connection with claim 1. Applicant therefore, respectfully submits that claims 2-6 and 8-16 also contain patentable subject matter and are also in condition for allowance.

If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.


All rejections having been addressed, applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: October 21, 2005

By:


William J. Klein
Registration No. 43,719

10 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 3000
Chicago, IL 60606
Tel: (312) 463-5000
Fax: (312) 463-5001